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LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 18

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Senator Lois Kolkhorst Tours the Port of Victoria

VICTORIA - Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst toured the Port of Victoria on Wednesday, May 18, with Port Commissioners Robby Burdge, Elton Calhoun and Don Pozzi to discuss the economic impact that the Port of Victoria has on Senate District 18 and the State of Texas.

The Port of Victoria took its place as a port in 1968 when the 35-mile Barge Canal to Victoria was completed to a navigable depth of 9 feet and a width of 100 feet. In 1995, work began to widen and deepen the canal to 12 feet in depth and 125 feet in width. The Port of Victoria is considered a center for the chemical, construction and steel fabrication and agribusiness industries offering access to all modes of transportation.

"The impact of Texas ports does not stop at the water's edge. In fact, Texas ports provide a major impact to our local and statewide economies," said Kolkhorst. "The Port of Victoria is a leading economic engine for the Texas Gulf Coast and is poised to continue to grow with industry engaged in billions of dollars of current and future infrastructure investments."

Senator Kolkhorst's district represents the ports of Bay City, Calhoun, Palacios, Victoria and West Calhoun; the most of any Texas lawmaker. Senator Kolkhorst was recently appointed to the newly established Senate Select Committee on Texas Ports by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. The committee exists to specifically study the economic benefit of the Panama Canal expansion to Texas ports. In addition to this appointment, Senator Kolkhorst serves on the permanent Senate Committees of Agriculture & Water, Education, Finance, Health & Human Services and Transportation. Senator Kolkhorst also Chairs a Joint Committee to study bringing a cruise industry to south Texas and also serves on a Joint Committee to study the construction of a coastal barrier system.

"As a lawmaker who represents nearly a third of the Texas coastline, I am excited to serve on the Senate Select Committee on Texas Ports and I think a great deal of our future economic growth lies in capitalizing on the economic opportunities presented by the Panama Canal expansion among others," said Kolkhorst.